# Proposed Parks, Trails, Open Space, and Recreation Goals, Policies, & Implementation Actions



The current *Draft Greenprint* has been prepared through a three-year public process and is intended, once finalized, to set forth a 10-year vision and a process to achieve that vision for the City's Parks, Recreation Facilities and Trails. Chapter 2 (pages 16-25) of the *Draft Greenprint* identify a Vision, Mission, Guiding Principles, Goals, Strategies and Targets for the City's Parks, Recreation Facilities and Trails. The following information is primarily pulled from the *Draft Greenprint*. Current policies in the existing San Jose 2020 General Plan are identified as such.

### **Goals (from the** *Draft Greenprint***):**

- A. Provide nationally recognized parks, trails, open space, recreation amenities and programs to meet the community's growing needs
- B. Provide accessible recreation opportunities that are responsive to the community's health and wellness
- C. Improve community image and livability by providing quality recreation facilities and programs
- D. Partner with the community to promote environmental stewardship and volunteerism
- E. Provide environmentally and financially sustainable recreation programs and infrastructure assets
- F. Provide environmentally responsible recreation facilities

# A. <u>Provide nationally recognized parks, trails, open space, recreation amenities and programs to meet the community's growing needs</u>

#### A. Policies:

1) Provide 3.5 acres/1,000 population of neighborhood/community serving parkland through a combination of 1.5 acres of public park and 2.0 acres of school grounds per 1,000 San Jose residents. (*Greenprint* Target #4, Updated *San Jose 2020 General Plan* Policy)

- 2) Provide 7.5 acres/1,000 population of citywide/regional park and open space lands through a combination of facilities provided by the City of San Jose and other public land agencies. (*Greenprint* Target #5, Updated San Jose 2020 General Plan Policy)
- 3) Provide 500 square feet/1,000 population of community center space. (*Greenprint* Target #6, Updated *San Jose 2020 General Plan* Policy)
- 4) Provide access to parklands within a one-half kilometer (1/3 mile) radius of all San Jose residents by either acquiring lands within 1/3 mile or providing safe connections to existing recreation facilities outside of the 1/3 mile radius consistent with the Urban Environmental Accords for recreation open space. (*Greenprint* Target #9, Updated *San Jose 2020 General Plan* Policy)
- 5) Provide access to high-quality recreation programs/services through the three tiered community center concept (multi-service hub, satellite, and neighborhood). (*Greenprint* Target #32)
- 6) Control land development along designated Trails and Pathways Corridors in order to provide sufficient trail right-of-way and to ensure that new development adjacent to the corridors does not compromise safe trail access nor detract from the scenic and aesthetic qualities of the corridor. (Existing *San Jose 2020 General Plan Policy*)
- 7) Align the City's recreation investment with the Greenprint, the Community Sports Field Study, the Green Vision, the Aquatics Master Plan, the Community Center Reuse Strategy, the Urban Environmental Accords and others as determined by the City Council. (*Greenprint* Target #1)
- 8) Maintain and periodically update a strategic plan (the *Greenprint*) establishing criteria and standards for the provision of parks and recreation services. (*Greenprint* Target #2, Updated *San Jose 2020 General Plan* Policy)
- 9) Design bridges and other public improvements within designated Trails and Pathways Corridors to provide safe and secure routes for trails, including grade separation of roadways and trails whenever feasible. (Existing *San Jose 2020 General Plan Policy*)

#### **A. Implementation Actions:**

1) Maintain and utilize San Jose's PDO/PIO to implement quality facilities and programs.

# B. <u>Provide accessible recreation opportunities that are responsive to the community's health and wellness</u>

#### **B. Policies:**

- 1) Encourage healthy food choices, exercise, and the production of locally grown agriculture for personal use by providing community garden facilities.
- 2) Provide quality recreation and neighborhood services that increase frequency of exercise, foster physical activity, and encourage healthy living. (*Greenprint* Strategy p. 21)

- 3) Design and construct new parks in a manner which allows access to each type of recreation experience for people of all abilities to the maximum extent possible. (*Greenprint* Target #29, Existing *San Jose 2020 General Plan* Policy)
- 4) Spend Park Dedication Ordinance (PDO) and Park Impact Ordinance (PIO) fees for neighborhood serving elements (such as playgrounds/tot-lots, basketball courts, etc.) within a 3/4 mile radius of the project site that generates the funds. (*Greenprint* Target #7)
- 5) Spend, as appropriate, PDO/PIO fees for community serving elements (such as soccer fields, dog parks, community gardens, etc.) within a 3-mile radius or within the same Urban Planning Area as the residential development that generates the PDO/PIO funds. (*Greenprint* Target #8)
- 6) Encourage locating all new residential developments over 200 units in size within 1/3 of a mile of a park, trail, open space or recreation school grounds open to the public after normal school hours. (*Greenprint* Target #10)
- 7) Whenever possible, construct facilities, especially those that are youth serving, near transit corridors. (*Greenprint* Strategy, p. 20)
- 8) Locate, orient, and design public parks, open space lands and other similar public areas in such a way as to facilitate their security and policing. (*Greenprint* Target #17, Existing *San Jose 2020 General Plan* Policy)

# **B.** Implementation Actions:

- 1) Partner with the San Jose Redevelopment Agency to provide parks and other recreation facilities as indicated in the various Neighborhood Improvement Plans associated with the Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Program that aligns with the *Greenprint*. (*Greenprint* Target #30)
- 2) Locate, orient, and design parks and recreation facilities using the Crime Prevention by Environmental Design Concept, when applicable. (*Greenprint* Target #17)

# C. <u>Improve community image and livability by providing quality recreation facilities and programs</u>

#### C. Policies:

- 1) Collaborate with the community in the design, programming, and operation of parks and recreation facilities. (*Greenprint* Target #33)
- 2) In the design of parks, consider providing features, facilities, and services that promote tourism and make San José an attractive location for economic development as well as serve the needs of San José residents. (*Greenprint* Target #28, Existing San Jose 2020 General Plan Policy)

## **C. Implementation Actions:**

- 1) Increase special events that bring neighborhoods together, such as street festivals, resource fairs, holiday parades, movies, theatrical plays, and concerts in local parks. (*Greenprint* Strategy, p. 21)
- 2) Provide the amenities identified in the Ideal Planning Area Model in the *Greenprint*, which include amenities such as community centers, parkland, sport fields, dog parks and community gardens. (*Greenprint* Strategy, p. 66)

# D. Partner with the community to promote environmental stewardship and volunteerism

#### D. Policies:

- 1) Increase public awareness, foster community input, and enhance participation in parks, recreation facilities, programs, and services (*Greenprint* Strategy)
- 2) Use the public input process in the design and operation of recreation facilities. (*Greenprint* Target #33)
- 3) Partner with the community to promote volunteerism in the care and programming of parks and recreation facilities.

### **D. Implementation Actions:**

- 1) Explore means for private maintenance of public parks and recreation facilities (such as maintenance from neighborhood/community groups, businesses, etc.) as a means to reduce maintenance costs.
- 2) Develop a Parks & Community Foundation as a means for residents and business partners to support parks and recreation programs and projects. (*Greenprint* Action, p. 36)

# E. <u>Provide environmentally and financially sustainable recreation programs and infrastructure assets</u>

#### **E. Policies:**

- 1) Develop trails, parks and recreation facilities in an environmentally sensitive manner and comply with all resource agency permits. (*Greenprint* Target #14)
- 2) Encourage privately owned and maintained publicly accessible recreation space. (*Greenprint* Action, p. 37)
- 3) When funding permits, purchase and land bank properties as they become available for future park and recreation facility developments. (*Greenprint* Target #16)

- 4) Consider open space land dedications when public ownership will preserve the natural and scenic beauty, protect natural and man-made landmarks, or provide a land supply to meet future recreation needs. (*Greenprint* Target #21, Updated *San Jose 2020 General Plan* Policy)
- 5) When new developments are over 50 residential units and are adjacent to a designated Trails and Pathways corridor, encourage the developer to build a trail when it is a part of a continuous system. (*Greenprint* Target #13, Updated *San Jose 2020 General Plan* Policy)
- 6) Develop or renovate facilities using a financially sustainable approach to maximize revenue generation, where possible. (*Greenprint* Target #19)
- 7) Continue to actively collaborate with school districts, utilities, and other public agencies to provide for appropriate recreation uses of their respective properties and rights-of-ways. Consideration should be given to cooperative efforts between these entities and the City to develop parks, pedestrian and bicycle trails, sports fields and recreation facilities. (*Greenprint* Target #22, Updated *San Jose 2020 General Plan* Policy)
- 8) Collaborate with the public land agencies and other appropriate jurisdictions to direct the expenditure of their funds to provide parks and other open space lands and recreation resources within, or in close proximity to, the urban population. (*Greenprint* Target #23, Updated *San Jose 2020 General Plan* Policy)
- 9) Encourage public land agencies to accept dedications of open space lands of regional significance, including watersheds, wildlife habitats, wetlands, historic sites and scenic lands. (*Greenprint* Target #26, Updated *San Jose 2020 General Plan* Policy)
- 10) Work cooperatively with local school districts in identifying and evaluating surplus school sites for potential parkland acquisition. (*Greenprint* Target #24, Updated *San Jose 2020 General Plan* Policy)
- 11) Encourage the development of private/commercial recreation facilities that are open to the public to help meet existing and future demands (i.e. plazas, swimming pools, fitness centers and gardens). (*Greenprint* Target #31)

### **E. Implementation Actions:**

- 1) Align the City's capital investment with General Plan Goals & Policies, the Greenprint, and other applicable plans/policies adopted by the City Council. (*Greenprint* Target #1)
- 2) Explore recreation augmentation and funding to offset reliance on the General Fund. (*Greenprint* Strategy)
- 3) Consider use of general obligation bonds to further the development of parks, recreation facilities, and trails for the City.
- 4) Continue implementation of the recreation Pricing and Revenue Policy to offset reliance on the General Fund. (*Greenprint* Target #20)
- 5) Maintain and periodically update the School Site Reuse Plan. (*Greenprint* Target #25, Updated San Jose 2020 General Plan Policy)

- 6) Implement fee changes for recreation programs and facilities in order to generate additional revenues for the City. (*Greenprint* Action, p. 33)
- 7) Pursue joint use projects with schools and colleges, Santa Clara Valley Water District, other public agencies, and private foundations. (*Greenprint* Action, p.36)

### F. Provide environmentally responsible recreation facilities

#### F. Policies

- 1) Consistent with the Green Vision, complete the City's trail network and where feasible develop interconnected trails with bike lanes to facilitate bicycle commuting. (*Greenprint* Target #11)
- 2) Develop or renovate facilities using an environmentally sustainable approach while simultaneously minimizing on-going maintenance concerns. (*Greenprint* Target #18)
- 3) Encourage sustainable connections (such as pedestrian/bike trails, transit, etc.) between community elements like schools, parks, recreation centers, libraries and other public nodes. (*Greenprint* Target #12)
- 4) In design and construction, consider the role of parks, trails, and open space in preserving or enhancing existing ecosystems or restoring where appropriate.
- 5) The development of public and private recreational uses in rural and hillside areas should be low intensity and sensitive to geologic hazards, water resources, natural habitats, and visual impacts, consistent with allowed densities and development standards for residential and other uses. (Existing *San Jose 2020 General Plan Policy*)

### F. Implementation Actions

- 1) Obtain LEED Certification (or its equivalent) for new and existing parks and recreation facilities, as dictated by applicable City policies.
- 2) Evaluate abandoned railroad rights-of-ways for acquisition and development as trails where the right-of-way aligns with the City's Trail System. (*Greenprint* Target #15, Updated *San Jose 2020 General Plan* Policy)